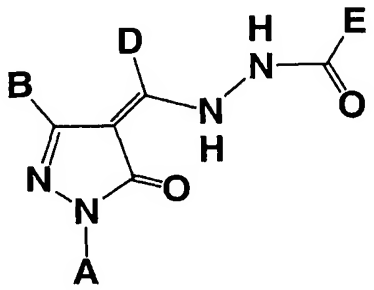
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 as follows:

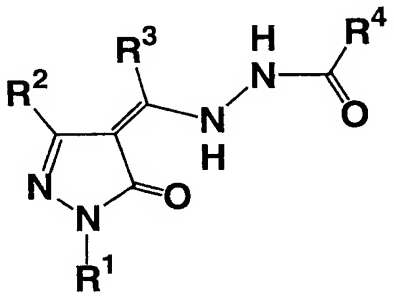
Namely, the present invention relates to a pyrazolone compound represented by the formula (1)



Formula (1)

wherein A is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups (the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group)), B is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, D is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, and E is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups, one or more halogen atoms, one or more cyano groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, NG^1G^2 (wherein G^1 and G^2 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups), one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ groups (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~

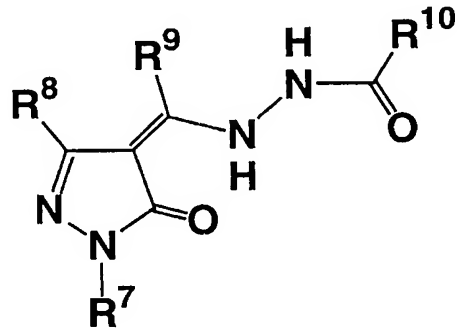
group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group), one or more sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ groups (the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group), one or more hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ groups, one or more hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ groups, one or more tetrazole groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nco_2H$ (wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NG^3 (G^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group), Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3)), a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof, a thrombopoietin receptor activator, a preventive, therapeutic or improving agent for diseases against which activation of the thrombopoietin receptor is effective which contains the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient, and a platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient. It also relates to a pyrazolone compound represented by the formula (2)



Formula (2)

wherein R^1 is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more

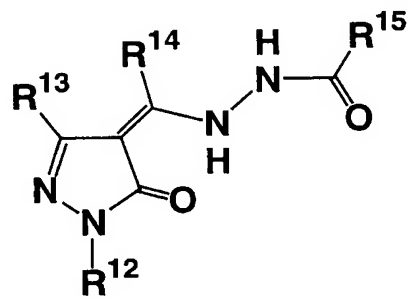
fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups (the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group)), R^2 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, R^3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, and R^4 is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more hydroxyl groups, one or more nitro groups or NR^5R^6 (wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen atoms, formyl groups, C_{1-6} alkyl groups or C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups)), a tautomer prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof, a thrombopoietin receptor activator, a preventive, therapeutic or improving agent for diseases against which activation of the thrombopoietin receptor is effective which contains the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient, and a platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient. It further relates to a pyrazolone compound represented by the formula (3)



Formula (3)

wherein R^7 is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups (the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group)), R^8 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, R^9 is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, and R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group is optionally substituted with one or more carboxyl groups, one or more sulfonic acid groups, one or more phosphonic acid groups, one or more carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ groups, one or more sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ groups, one or more hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ groups, one or more hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ groups, one or more tetrazole groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups or $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$ (wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{11} (R^{11} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group), Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3)), a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof, a thrombopoietin receptor activator, a preventive, therapeutic or improving agent for diseases against which activation of the thrombopoietin receptor is effective which contains the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient, and a platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof

as an active ingredient. It still further relates to a pyrazolone compound represented by the formula (4)



Formula (4)

wherein R^{12} is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group may be optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6} alkyl groups, one or more C_{1-3} alkyl groups substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, one or more halogen atoms, one or more nitro groups, one or more C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl groups, one or more hydroxyl groups or one or more amino groups (the hydroxyl group and the amino group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group)), R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms or a C_{2-14} aryl group, and R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group (the C_{2-14} aryl group is substituted with a substituent selected from a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group) and with a substituent selected from a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~

group, a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, a tetrazole group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group and $X(CYZ)_nCO_2H$ (wherein X is CH_2, O, S or NR^{16} (R^{16} is a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a formyl group or a C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl group), Y and Z are independently hydrogen atoms or C_{1-3} alkyl groups, and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3)), a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or a solvate thereof, a thrombopoietin receptor activator, a preventive, therapeutic or improving agent for diseases against which activation of the thrombopoietin receptor is effective which contains the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient, and a platelet increasing agent containing the thrombopoietin receptor activator, a tautomer, prodrug or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the thrombopoietin receptor activator or a solvate thereof as an active ingredient.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 11 as follows:

Substituents: a carboxyl group, sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, a sulfamide group, a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ group, a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, CH_2CO_2H, OCH_2CO_2H, $NHCH_2CO_2H$, $CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ and a tetrazole group.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 24 as follows:

Substituents: a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ group, a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, CH_2CO_2H, OCH_2CO_2H, $NHCH_2CO_2H$, $CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ and a tetrazole group.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 17 as follows:

Substituent set A: a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a halogen atom, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 23 as follows:

Substituent set B: a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ group, a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, CH_2CO_2H, OCH_2CO_2H, $NHCH_2CO_2H$, $CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ and a tetrazole group.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 10 as follows:

Substituent set A: a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a halogen atom, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 16 as follows:

Substituent set B: a carboxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, a phosphonic acid group, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ group, a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, CH_2CO_2H, OCH_2CO_2H, $NHCH_2CO_2H$, $CH_2CH_2CO_2H$ and a tetrazole group.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 22 as follows:

19) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 26 as follows:

20) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a phenyl group or pyridyl group substituted with a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 4 as follows:

21) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a thienyl group, furyl group or pyridazinyl group substituted with a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 9 as follows:

22) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 13 as follows:

23) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a phenyl group or pyridyl group substituted with a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 18 as follows:

24) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a thienyl group, furyl group or pyridazinyl group substituted with a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 23 as follows:

25) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 1 as follows:

26) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a phenyl group or pyridyl group substituted with a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 6 as follows:

27) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a thienyl group, furyl group or pyridazinyl group substituted with a hydroxycarbamido ~~hydroxycarbamoyl~~

group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 11 as follows:

28) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 16 as follows:

29) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a phenyl group or pyridyl group substituted with a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 21 as follows:

30) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (3) wherein R^{10} is a thienyl group, furyl group or pyridazinyl group substituted with a hydroxysulfamido ~~hydroxysulfamoyl~~ group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 36, line 13 as follows:

40) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (4) wherein R^{15} is a C_{2-14} aryl group substituted with a substituent selected from a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be

substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group) and a halogen atom and with a carboxyl group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 36, line 23 as follows:

41) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (4) wherein R^{15} is a phenyl or pyridyl group substituted with a substituent selected from a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group) and a halogen atom and with a carboxyl group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 37, line 6 as follows:

42) Pyrazolone compounds represented by the formula (4) wherein R^{15} is a thienyl group, furyl group or pyridazinyl group substituted with a substituent selected from a nitro group, a cyano group, a C_{1-3} alkyl group substituted with one or more fluorine atoms, a carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and a sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group (the carbamido ~~carbamoyl~~ group and the sulfamido ~~sulfamoyl~~ group may be substituted with a C_{1-6} alkyl group) and a halogen atom and with a carboxyl group, tautomers, prodrugs or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds or solvates thereof.